

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed December 29, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 1 is canceled. Claims 2-6, 10 and 11 have been amended. Claims 2-12 are pending in this application, with claims 7 and 12 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed June 17, 2002, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,170,154 (Swarup).

Claims 7-12 are allowed.

In view of the allowable subject matter, claim 1 is canceled and dependent claims 2-6 are rewritten as dependent on allowable independent claim 12. Dependent claims 2-6, being dependent on independent claim 12, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 12.


Furthermore, claims 10 and 11 were originally written as dependent on claim 4. Claims 10 and 11 are now rewritten as being dependent on allowable independent claim 7.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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